

Blanchard, Deborah

From: Priscilla Colwell <priscilla.colwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 11:17 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Marijuana legislation testimony letter

ISSUE: Money for the State Judiciary Committee

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Priscilla Colwell and I am from Woodstock. I oppose SB 1085 that would legalize marijuana for "recreation".

I am concerned about this bill because I think that the costs detailed below do not warrant the benefits that the marijuana industry is proposing. Even before this recreation legalization our safety is jeopardized by people driving high, so making it more easily accessible will increase drugged driving. We all know that the our roads are sometimes challenging enough without this complication.

The marijuana industry would like you to think that the state coffers would be filled with extra dollars from marijuana sales. They would like you to forget about the costs to the state and our people from such action. Please remember that the sales tax revenue from alcohol (\$14 billion) and cigarettes (\$25 billion) is far less than the costs to our state and our people (\$385 billion). Marijuana will be no different.

Please total up these costs for legalizing marijuana:

- Regulation
- Increased drugged driving fatalities
- Increased property damage to vehicles related to drugged driving
- Increased ER visits from marijuana intoxication
- Marijuana concentrate illegal extraction lab explosions
- Increased homelessness
- Workplace: Increased absenteeism
- Workplace: Injuries

Total estimated costs: \$216 million

(based on data from states that have legalized, from Smart Approaches to Marijuana Report, 2018)

Further, we would need to spend millions more on **prevention** to keep youth and others safer from the increased availability of marijuana, as well as millions more on **treatment**. Both prevention and treatment for substance use are already woefully underfunded in CT. In Washington State over HALF of the pot money never was spent on prevention and treatment as planned. Rather the money was diverted to the general fund.

Please vote NO on SB 1085. The costs to our people and our state and local governments is too great.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Colwell

Woodstock